

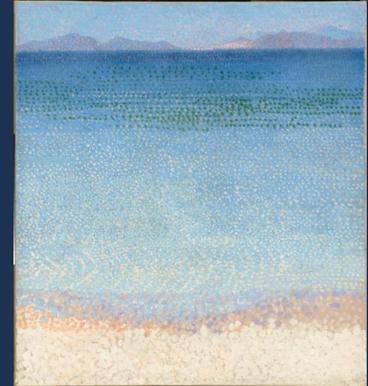
Keys facts on GC for Med | 1st semester

Why this group ?

The Mediterranean is one of the most biodiverse seas in the world, and also one of the most threatened. We created this group not only because the Mediterranean Sea connects us geographically — but because it also connects our economies, our cultures, and our futures.

Over 150 million people are living on Mediterranean coastline which double during the tourist season. Over the last decades, use and dependence on the ocean have dramatically risen, creating millions of jobs, boosting economies, while supporting the energy transition and global trade. As a consequence, our social and economic dependencies on marine ecosystems have increased, however, our environmental impacts increasingly threaten the services the ocean provides.

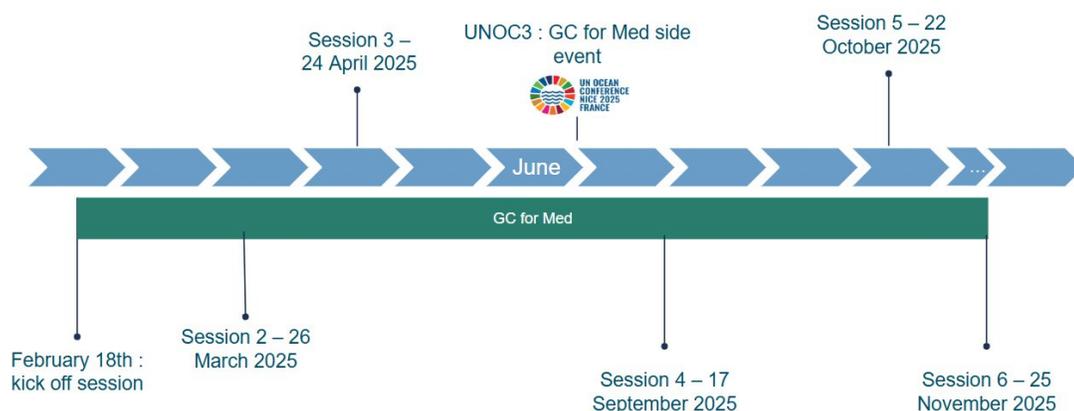
As part of the United Nations Global Compact, we support the idea that the private sector has a vital role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. And when we look specifically at SDG 14 focused on Life Below Water, we see a powerful opportunity to create shared value — both for nature and for business.



Henri-Edmond Cross, Les Iles d'Or, 1891-1892

How ?

8 UNGC country networks : Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal



Three sessions have been held online and one special event was organised in Nice during the third UN Ocean conference.

This group aims to :

- Facilitate the exchange of key learnings on marine protection, specifically on Mediterranean coastline
- Highlight best initiatives
- Engage in stakeholder's partnerships

How to engage with scientific community ?

IOC-UNESCO

Initiated by the company Fugro and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (**UNESCO-IOC**), the objective of the **Ocean Decade corporate data group (CDG)** is to identify opportunities and obstacles to the sharing of ocean data in the private sector and develop practical solutions to facilitate the sharing of this data.

Why participate?

- Improve your data management efficiency and boost your innovation;
- Gain the trust of partners and investors;
- Benefit more from feedback, improve modeling and forecasting tools, and optimize operations;
- Improve your environmental management and make marine industries sustainable.

How to participate?

- Participate in the group's various events;
- Contribute to the development of data sharing strategies;
- Promote the group and its principles within your industry and professional association;
- And of course, share your company's ocean data for public access.

Contact: Peter Burger, Data and Knowledge Management Officer p.burger@unesco.org

What future for the Mediterranean ?

Plan Bleu

The **MED2050 report** is the result of a collaboration between experts from different Mediterranean countries and disciplines. It presents six scenarios for the future of the region by 2050. The project aims to inform decision makers about Mediterranean issues and also to raise awareness.

Structural tendencies :

- Mediterranean is warming up 20% faster than the rest of the globe. Temperatures in the Mediterranean are expected to exceed 2°C by 2040 with consequences on droughts, floods, heatwaves on land and at sea, etc., and a sea level rise (of the order of 40 cm) that will lead to problems for the protection of coasts and populations in the coming decades
- Although the demographic transition is complete in two-thirds of Mediterranean countries, the regional population will continue to grow by 20-30%, reaching between 630 and 690 million inhabitants in 2050, compared to 520 million today.
- By the middle of the century, at least half of the region's population and activities will be concentrated on the coastline (compared with 30-40% today)
- While the mass use of aquaculture should make it possible to stabilise fishing catches (especially for the most popular species), and marine biodiversity is not necessarily going to be reduced overall, the entire marine ecosystem will nevertheless be radically transformed and "tropicalised", with global warming leading to major reorganisations in the distribution of biota, species and marine productivity.

In addition to these major trends, there are still **significant long-term uncertainties** in important fields, such as geopolitics, cultural and societal changes and the economy. For the economy, questions are raised concerning the overall outlook for growth and the capacity of Mediterranean countries to find their place in the ongoing digital and industrial revolution, alongside the future of key sectors such as the blue economy, tourism, transport and energy.

Mediterranean stakeholders expressed **8 major priority issues** :

- Give immediate priority to adaptation and the prevention of major risks ;
- Avoid irreversible changes for the sea and the soil ;
- Anticipate demographic and territorial changes ;
- Successfully manage the "Water - Agriculture / Food - Energy - Environment" nexus ;
- Better promote the value of the shared Mediterranean area ;
- Adapt regional and national governance, starting with law enforcement, active subsidiarity⁵, and openness to civil society ;
- Drive forward the fair transition of sector-specific economic models by promoting specific local or Mediterranean advantages ;
- Drive the Mediterranean into a digital and "knowledge society" that integrates the environment and the sea (and their culture)

Session 2 – Pollution

Reduce plastic waste in all plastic packaging

Yildiz Holding (TUR)

How to reduce plastic waste ? After building a partnership programme in 2019 (Global Compact Türkiye, SKD Türkiye, and TÜSİAD, IPG) Yıldiz Holding has launched an internal working group between group companies sharing best practices and innovation efforts.

The analysis of the current situation and opportunities to increase recycling rates has led to the preparation and implementation of a best practice guide with design rules : ensuring that packaging is reusable, recyclable, or compostable, moving away from single-use plastics and transitioning from PVC to recyclable PET, work with mono film structure instead of composite structure, reducing microns, transitioning from PE to PP

Main outcomes : Successfully reduced 2,250 tons of plastic by the end of 2023 and increased the proportion of recyclable plastic in the snack group to 97%.

Main challenges

- PIR (Post Industrial Recycle) and PCR (Post Consumer Recycle) materials are not used due to supply difficulties and their unsuitability for food contact.
- Interaction of packaging machines and packaging characteristics with sustainable material as well as monitoring technological advancements and innovations to overcome machine functionality issues and challenges related to oxygen and moisture barrier properties

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Objective net zero 2030 without compensation in logistic industry

Nice cote d'Azur airport (FRA)

How to decarbonize ? At first, get into a carbon accreditation programme to find support.

Step 1 : carbon footprint calculation and policy commitment to CO2 reduction

Step 2 : Managing and reducing footprint

Step 3 : Engaging others and measuring their emissions

Step 4 : Extending carbon footprint, absolute emissions reductions in line with the Paris agreement, enhancing 3rd party engagement

Step 5 : Maintaining a net zero balance on scopes 1 and 2 and actively addressing scope 3 emissions, strengthening approach, to 3rd party engagement, offset removals for residual emissions

Concrete actions :

- Removing gas boilers and replace them by electric alternatives
- Switching to biofuel for vehicles
- Electrifying aircraft stands
- Tempered water loop, linked to HALIOTIS, Nice Metropolis wastewater treatment plant

Next steps :

- Influence aviation-linked third parties
- Further decarbonize passenger access
- Reduce GHG emissions along the value chain

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Key discussion notes

Step 1 – Evaluate the risks and opportunities : risks (economic competition, operational, regulation, finance and reputation, attractiveness) and opportunities (partnerships, innovation, competition advantage, finance and reputation, attraction of talents, business culture, reduction of regulation costs)

Step 2 – Engage stakeholders : meet or partner with other supplier chain or sector related actors, others companies in same field, scientists , NGO's, politics, employees, media, local communities , economical partners, finance

Step 3 – Choose and implement good indicators

Step 4 – Evaluate circularity solutions : in production phase, production, use of the product and recycling. Think priorities as (1) Avoid (alternative production), (2) Reduce (reduce, rethink, reuse, repair) and (3) Compensate (recycling, energy collection)

Step 5 – Evaluate impacts and challenges : integrate in-house expertise on the ocean and marine biodiversity or have access to training. Make relevant, realistic and quantifiable commitments

Step 6 – Make relevant, realistic and quantifiable commitments : engage with supplier, supplier of supplier, financial direction, executive direction with clear objectives, calculation figures and concrete impacts.

Step 7 – Follow up : identify positive return (survey, studies), communicate impacts and engage exchanges with decision makers

How to engage with civil society?

Monaco Oceanographic Institute

The Med Visioning project was launched to Collectively develop a (post 2030) vision and a narrative for the Mediterranean Sea that can unite civil society and the private sector, inform conservation strategies and UN process for the post-2030 Agenda.

The project is expected to run over 10 months (March - December 2025) with business involvement in the process. A final policy document that defines possible future for the Mediterranean Sea should be presented at COP24 of the Barcelona Convention.

Contact : Mia Marty, Ocean policy officer m.marty@oceano.org

Session 3 – Biodiversity

Tackling water pollution in beauty industry

Beesline (LEB)

CSR must be a purpose of the company, integrated part of the brand

Challenges on waste water in Lebanon

- Lack of national wastewater treatment infrastructure
- High cost of building a dedicated treatment station
- Limited funding opportunities and paused donor support

Objectives reached

- Over 39% of wastewater undergoes treatment for repurposing in irrigation, diverting it away from oceans and contributing to sustainable water use.
- Zero manufacturing waste to landfills since 2022 and 40% reduction in solid waste in 2024
- Recycling index going from 66% to 93%

How ?

- Collaboration with various recycling centers
- Do a Packaging life cycle assessment (PLCA) and redesign packaging by reducing weight, refillable purpose, increase recycle materials or replace with biobased materials

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Restore underwater forest with beverage industry

Coca-Cola (ESP)

“[Bosques Sumergidos](#)” - Part of the project “Mares Circulares” by Coca-Cola

Challenges faced:

- Ecosystem degradation: Threatened coastal ecosystems and wetlands due to pollution and rising water levels.
- Biodiversity loss: Significant decline in marine species' habitats.
- Water pollution: Contamination in coastal areas affecting aquatic life.

Objectives reached:

- Restoration of ecosystems: Successfully restored submerged forests, promoting biodiversity.
- Sustainability: Improved coastal health and ecosystem services like carbon sequestration.
- Increased awareness: Raised consciousness about the importance of protecting submerged forests.

How?

- Scientific research: Conducted studies on effective restoration techniques.
- Collaborations: Partnered with local communities and environmental organizations.
- Sustainable practices: Used eco-friendly methods in restoration projects and ecosystem management.

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Key discussion notes

Mediterranean is identified as a **biodiversity hotspot**. 80% of Earth biodiversity is in the Ocean but only 10-25% of marine species have been described. The ocean supports 90% of the planet's biosphere and produces around 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs about 90% of excess heat.

With climate change and plastic pollution, marine life is also directly affected by wastewater high in FOG (fats, oil and grease) and chemicals, causing habitat degradation and species loss.

Aligning with global goals (SDG14)

- Make SDG 14 part of your company's strategy
- Support the global goal to protect 30% of oceans by 2030

Regenerative business practices

- Use and promote nature-based solutions
- Restore marine habitats (coral reefs, seagrass, shellfish beds)

Responsible operations

- Buy seafood from trusted, sustainable sources
- Cut down on plastic, manage waste properly, and reduce noise from ships or equipment
- And in tourism, avoid single-use plastics, support local conservation, and help tourists understand how to care for marine life

Collaboration & impacts

- It means partnering with NGOs, scientists, and fellow companies. It also means tracking our impact and sharing our progress transparently

Third UN Ocean conference, Nice (France)

Special GC for Med event – June 11th

Organized as part of the Nice Ocean Business Forum (NOBF) by the United Nations Global Compact, the session "Blue Value, Shared Future: Mediterranean Business Innovation for a Sustainable Blue Economy" brought together Mediterranean companies around the central role of the private sector in the transition to a sustainable, low-emission blue economy. By targeting key sectors (maritime transport, coastal tourism, energy, food, and finance) the session highlighted innovative business models that combine value creation, marine ecosystem regeneration, and climate change adaptation.

Several stakeholders presented their approaches:

- Mario Špadina, CEO of SeaCras (Croatia), offers pollution detection and data collection tools powered by satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to monitor and protect vulnerable areas, such as the Posidonia seagrass beds in Croatia. Their technology helps governments and businesses reconcile economic development with respect for the marine environment.
- Molly Minton, Senior ESG Analyst and Engagement Specialist at Amundi (France), one of Europe's largest asset managers, has been intensifying its ESG engagement on ocean issues since 2019, targeting plastic pollution, resource management, and waste. A pilot project for the collection of medical plastic has been expanded to several countries, illustrating this growing momentum.
- Victor Galvan, Global Head of Nature-based Solutions at Iberostar Group (Spain), with its 120 coastal hotels, is investing in nature-based solutions, including scientific erosion monitoring and seagrass protection. The group works closely with local research and authorities to restore ecosystems and adapt its operations – for example, by conserving Posidonia seagrass beds on beaches to limit erosion.
- Francisco Santos, Head of Sustainability at Highgate (Portugal), manager of 15 hotels, works in partnership with the CCMI research center to assess environmental impacts, train its teams and co-construct a roadmap for the protection of marine biodiversity.

Additional event – June 12th

Organised in the green zone, this event highlighted added values of partnerships, concrete link between local actions carried out in the territory and the broader framework of the third UN Ocean Conference as well as solutions developed by member companies located on the Mediterranean coast.

Assunção Cristas (former Minister of Agriculture and the Sea of Portugal) emphasized the need for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral partnerships to address challenges related to ocean sustainability. Collaboration between policymakers, NGOs, the private sector, scientists, local authorities, and academia is crucial. Academia plays a key role in translating scientific knowledge into concrete actions and facilitating interdisciplinary communication. Public, private, and philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs) can be structured through innovative contractual consortia.

For the former Portuguese minister, consensus and rational debate on deep-sea mining represent a major challenge, calling for transparent, science-based dialogue. Classic threats such as pollution, climate change, acidification, and deoxygenation are more than relevant. Among the opportunities discussed, the development of voluntary carbon markets, particularly blue carbon credits, are the result of ongoing methodological studies. While regulations such as the CSRD and CSDDD encourage companies to reduce or offset their harms, mechanisms dedicated to biodiversity still need to be consolidated.

Several companies shared their experiences :

- VINCI Airports integrates partnerships at the heart of its sustainability strategy, coordinating more than 60 stakeholders to reduce Scope 3 emissions, in close collaboration with universities, NGOs, and local communities.
- SUEZ is modernizing wastewater treatment infrastructure in Nice with the Haliotis II project, transforming the facilities into energy and resource producing ecosystems through enhanced collaboration with local stakeholders and researchers.
- Ocean Winds (ENGIE) is developing offshore wind farms in partnership with NGOs and academia, promoting biodiversity (e.g., artificial islands) and ensuring transparent data sharing.
- Seché Environnement is demonstrating circular waste management through innovative projects, including bromine recovery and solvent regeneration, in collaboration with customers, academic institutions, and authorities.

Anadolu Efes created new coral gardens in cooperation with Marine Life Conservation Society and participate to develop first Türkiye's first underwater biodiversity.

UNOC-3 and then ?

- **Plastic pollution** : 96 countries signed a declaration in Nice for an ambitious plastics treaty. Negotiations are held in Geneva in August. Mediterranean ministers adopted a declaration of commitment to support the adoption of the international treaty and its implementation throughout the Mediterranean basin. The Circemed project, a Mediterranean circular economy network launched
- **Fish stocks** : more than 100 states have ratified WTO agreement on fisheries harmful subsidies.
- **Shipping** : IMO agreement, reached in spring 2025, seals the complete decarbonization of maritime transport by 2050. At the instigation of the IMO, 37 states have created a coalition against noise pollution.
- **Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition was created**, hosted by UNOPS and the UNOPS Global Center for Climate Mobility, around a five-pronged action plan to address the existential challenge posed by sea level rise for coastal communities (sharing solutions, building knowledge, building capacity, financing adaptation specifically for coastal communities, and advocating for the interests of coastal communities within multilateral entities).
- Summit for a Connected Mediterranean discuss land, maritime, and digital connectivity in the region. On this occasion, France reaffirmed its support for the implementation of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC). The European Union announced the raising of €5.9 billion for the MENA region as part of the Global Gateway strategy, generating a leverage effect of €27.2 billion in public and private financing. Mediterranean ports have announced the launch of a major mobilization effort for the decarbonization of ports, leading up to the next COP24 in Egypt of the Barcelona Convention.
- **Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction** : 50 States have already deposited their instruments of ratification for the "BBNJ" (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Agreement. Together with additional commitments, it should ensure entry into force of this treaty, which regulates 64% of the ocean and therefore 50% of the globe's surface, no later than January 2026. It would then ensure the holding of the Ocean Conference of the First Conference that same year.
- **Deep sea mining** : as 37 states expressed their wish to have a moratorium on Deepsea exploitation, the International seabed authority (ISA) did not adopt exploitation regulations during its last session in July 2025.
- **Climate change** : The Blue NDC Challenge was launched by Brazil and France to integrate ocean in climate plans in the perspective of the Belem COP30.

80 organizations from 25 countries, representing a combined turnover of €600 billion and employing 2 million people, have endorsed the "**Business in Ocean**" call to action. Companies commit to integrating ocean-related risks and opportunities into their strategies, disclosing their impacts on the marine environment, investing in ocean-friendly solutions, and supporting a just transition.

15 leading pioneering companies and major tourism and maritime transport networks have announced the launch of a **Pact for Sustainable Blue Tourism**.

To go further

The UNGC Ocean Stewardship Coalition, has recently launched the Ocean Investment Protocol. This is a framework that will enable financial institutions, insurers, companies in the blue economy sector and governments to redirect financial flows towards ODD 14.

SDG 14 Atlas a data and visualization platform, dedicated to the SDG 14 which compiles key indicators measuring progress towards these specific targets. It provides accurate and regular monitoring of progress, facilitating policy evaluation and sectoral policy planning support for financial players.

The SBTN Ocean data resources tool to

GC for Med : next steps

Session 4 : UNOC follow-up and takeaway - 17 September

Session 5 : From UNOC to Belem : climate mitigation and adaptation - 22 October

Session 6 : Making action on the Mediterranean long lasting - 25 November